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47454

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION

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SUBJECT: Italian Concern over the Activities of the
Committee for Free Albania

1. Through [] we have learned of a meeting of high Italian intelligence officers at the end of November 1950, in which one of them stated that the British were using their best men, [] in operations in Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia. It was also stated that, as a result of a recent meeting of the Committee for Free Albania in Athens, at which agreement in principle was obtained from the Committee members present, the British printed an enormous quantity of leaflets which were subsequently dropped on various Albanian cities and towns from several aircraft. The members of the Committee for Free Albania were allegedly able to see the text of the leaflets only after they had been dropped; they were completely surprised by the contents of the leaflets, inasmuch as the propaganda slant given by the British to the attitude of the Committee was quite different in the leaflets from that allegedly evinced by the Committee representatives, and appeared designed to achieve ends alien to Albanian interests. However, since the leaflets had already been dropped, nothing could be done about it.

2. In the meeting of Italian intelligence officers described above it was stated that the British move was so decisive and serious that there was a danger of partition of Albania, under the very eyes of Italy, to her inevitable and grave prejudice. The point of view was accordingly expressed that the Italians must have timely knowledge of any plans made or considered by the Committee for Free Albania in Italy or abroad which might react to the detriment of Italy or to the advantage of other countries concerned with Albania.

3. It was stated that operations undertaken thus far to determine the activities of the Committee for Free Albania in Rome, and especially at the meeting place at Via Livorno 42, apartment 11, had been unsuccessful. It was therefore felt necessary to attempt to corrupt a member of the Committee or, barring that, to effect a penetration of the Committee headquarters. In any case, it was desired to proceed to the identification of the

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American who participates in the Committee meetings at this apartment, sometimes with [] and sometimes alone.

4. [] observes that the information contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above is firmly believed by responsible Italian leaders, particularly those in the Foreign Office.

5. In connection with the above it is essential that no action be taken by OPC which might have the effect of compromising our penetration of Italian intelligence and thus not only jeopardize our relations with the Italian services but also possibly eliminate a valuable source of information through whom we are now able, to a certain degree, to protect the interests of your Office. It is therefore urgently requested that none of the above information be passed to any of your field representatives, or that any other action be taken, without the prior concurrence of this Office.

6. For our information we should appreciate your comments on the accuracy of the information contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. In addition, we shall be grateful if you will provide us with any available samples of leaflets which have been dropped over Albania.

[]
Assistant Director
Special Operations

SO DB-32241

Written 11 December 1950

CMF:ejb

[] 7433 (IN 12623)

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